



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Moab Field Office

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Moab, Utah 84532

<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab.html>



March 2, 2016

In Reply Refer To:  
3100 (LLUTY010)  
DOI-BLM-UT-Y010-2015-0198-EA

Re: Fidelity's West Fertilizer 16-Pad Oil and Gas Project – Progress Update

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated public review of Fidelity's West Fertilizer 16-Pad Oil and Gas Project with a public scoping period from July 21 to August 28, 2015. As part of ensuring robust public outreach during the scoping period, the BLM proactively held a public meeting on August 12, 2015 and conducted a public field tour on August 14, 2015.

Since the close of the public scoping period on August 28, 2015, the BLM has been reviewing public scoping comments, working with Fidelity Exploration and Production Company (Fidelity) to finalize application supporting documentation, working on alternatives development, and starting to draft the environmental assessment for the project. The BLM compiled all comments that were received during the public scoping period and made those comments available to the public on October 8, 2015 via the BLM ePlanning website (web address below).

Section 102(2)(E) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to "study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources." In accordance with Section 102(2)(E) of NEPA and in response to issues raised through the public scoping process and internal interdisciplinary team reviews, the BLM has prepared preliminary draft alternatives, including 16 alternative well sites and offsite production facilities.

The BLM sought input from Fidelity on the preliminary draft alternatives to help the BLM understand the impacts the preliminary draft alternatives would have on Fidelity. The BLM met with Fidelity on December 3, 2015 to present the preliminary draft alternatives and the rationale for their development. Some of the issues providing rationale for development of alternatives that were discussed at the meeting included: potential impacts to lands with wilderness characteristics, conformance with visual resource management objectives (both visual resource management class (VRM) II and VRM III objectives exist within the project area), potential impacts to bighorn habitat, potential impacts to sensitive soils, and potential impacts to recreation. On January 21, 2016, the BLM formally requested Fidelity's review of the preliminary draft alternatives. On February 22, 2016, Fidelity provided a response to the BLM request for review of the preliminary draft alternatives.

In the spirit of continuing to engage and inform the public regarding BLM's review process, the BLM is now providing a map depicting the preliminary draft alternatives and a draft table that explains the

development rationale for each of the preliminary draft alternatives. These documents are intended to be informational in nature; the BLM is not soliciting public comments at this time. The BLM will also post Fidelity's response of February 22, 2016 to the preliminary draft alternatives.

The BLM is currently reviewing the information provided by Fidelity on February 22, 2016 and will be moving forward to finalize the range of alternatives to be considered in the environmental analysis. The BLM will then work to complete preparation of the environmental assessment. Once the environmental assessment is completed, it will be released for public review and comment.

The BLM appreciates your interest in this project. Project information will continue to be provided via the BLM ePlanning website at [https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa\\_register.do](https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do). If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Tanner Nygren, Project Manager, at (435) 259-2116 or by email at [tnygren@blm.gov](mailto:tnygren@blm.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/ Beth Ransel

Beth Ransel  
Field Manager

Enclosures